



James Rosenthal and Peggy Tjin-A-Koeng bring an international flavor to their wedding in Aruba

Just before sunset and the Jewish Sabbath, James Rosenthal declared his undying love and devotion to Peggy Tjin-A-Koeng, originally of Suriname but living in Holland, on Friday afternoon, April 20. The wedding and dinner was on the charming dock/restaurant called Pinchos, located on the water at the Aruba Surfside Marina.

Owners Anabela and Robby Peterson arranged a number of special requirements for a traditional Jewish ceremony, including the required canopy, called a "huppa," which lent a beautiful backdrop to the sea, and the necessary napkin wrapped glass that James smashed underfoot to finalize his troth to Peggy.

Prior to their marriage, James and Peggy had been conducting a long distance romance for over two years, her living in Holland, and he in New York with quite a few frequent flyer miles accumulating between the two of them. They married in Aruba at Pinchos, as Peggy fell in love with the island and the restaurant while visiting her Aruban friend Mark Boekhoudt about two years ago. She swore during that visit that if she ever married, it would be there, and made her dream come true.

James expressed that marrying Peggy was a dream come true for him, as he had met her while on vacation in Amsterdam seven years ago, and was smitten. It was only a brief encounter at the café where she filled in an extra day or two from her work as a teacher, but it was enough to bring him back to Amsterdam time and again during the next four years. James unfortunately had lost her phone number after that first meeting, so he took many trips to Amsterdam in the hope of finding her again, but no such luck. Her fellow workers refused to give out personal information about her, not knowing what kind of person James might be. Finally, when he had given up all hope, he went to Amsterdam one more time with a good friend, "and there she was, at the same café where I first saw her. That was it for me; my poor friend was left on his own, as I could not risk losing her again."

More than two years of a long distance romance resulted in a wedding in Aruba, and James, who is very busy with a successful career as an actor specializing in voiceovers and narration felt that perhaps that actually "worked well for the both of us." They were legally married at the Town Hall in morning, and then recited their personal vows to each other under the huppa at Pinchos. Joining them for their wedding dinner at Pinchos was Peggy's Aruban friend Mark, her parents Henny and Nellie, and her sister and brother, Usha and Romeo, along with aunts and cousins, all traveling from either Holland, Suriname or the United States for the occasion.

As to where James and Peggy will settle together now that they are man and wife is still a topic of discussion, though they concur that Aruba, with its multi-cultural population would suit them nicely. "It is Dutch, it is Surinamese, and it is American, all the things that we are," noted Peggy, and a "wonderful place for a wedding."